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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 000960

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/11/2014

TAGS: [PREL](#) [EAID](#) [PGOV](#) [AF](#) [IT](#) [NATO](#) [AFGHANISTAN](#)

SUBJECT: ITALIAN RESPONSE: INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON AFGHANISTAN

REF: A. STATE 47946

[B](#). ROME 927

[C](#). ROME 668

CLASSIFIED BY: POL MINCOUNS THOMAS COUNTRYMAN, REASONS 1.5 (B) AND (D).

[1](#). (SBU) POST DELIVERED REF A POINTS TO ITALY'S SPECIAL ENVOY FOR AFGHANISTAN, AMB. ENRICO DE MAIO, AND ALSO DISCUSSED THEM WITH ASIAN DEVELOPMENT OFFICE DIRECTOR, COUNS. ALESSANDRO GAUDIANO. WE ALSO DELIVERED THE POINTS TO THE OFFICE OF MFA UNDER SECRETARY FOR ASIA MARGHERITA BONIVER. ITALY SHARES U.S. CONCERNS AND PRIORITIES FOR THE CONFERENCE, AND AS NOTED REF C, PLANS TO ANNOUNCE A THREE-YEAR PLEDGE IN LINE WITH ITS CURRENT 45-47 MILLION EURO ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION.

[2](#). (C) WHILE BONIVER HAD HOPED ITALY WOULD ALSO ANNOUNCE A LOCATION FOR AN ITALIAN-LED PRT, IT NOW SEEMS LIKELY THAT GOI DISCUSSIONS WITH SHAPE MAY NOT BE FAR ENOUGH ALONG TO PERMIT THAT (REF B). NONETHELESS, ITALY EXPECTS THAT ITS PLANS TO LEAD, AT A MINIMUM, A PROVINCIAL RECONSTRUCTION TEAM (PRT), AND POSSIBLY A FORWARD SUPPORT BASE (FSB) AS WELL, WILL BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT BY AT LEAST THE U.S. PARTICIPANTS AT THE CONFERENCE. (AN FSB ANNOUNCEMENT IS ALMOST CERTAIN TO BE FAR FROM READY FOR PUBLIC CONSUMPTION AND SHOULD NOT BE RAISED BY THE U.S. DELEGATION IN BERLIN IN PUBLIC UNLESS THE ITALIANS DO SO FIRST.)

[3](#). (C) IN HIS IMMEDIATE REACTION TO THE REF A POINTS, DE MAIO NOTED THAT THE U.S. LIST OF NEEDS FOR AFGHANISTAN MAKES NO MENTION OF NEEDS IN THE JUDICIAL SECTOR, WHICH IS UNDER THE ITALIAN LEAD, ALTHOUGH IT MENTIONS OTHER SECURITY SECTORS, SUCH AS COUNTERNARCOTICS AND POLICE. HE WONDERED WHETHER THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WOULD HAVE ENOUGH POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS TO ANNOUNCE IN THE SECURITY FIELDS. ASKED ABOUT ITALY'S OWN TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR AFGHAN JUDICIAL OFFICIALS AND ITS WORK TO ESTABLISH THE AFGHAN CRIMINAL CODE, HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT ITALY WOULD INDEED PRESENT THESE ACCOMPLISHMENTS, BUT SEEMED TO WISH FOR A BROADER DEGREE OF SUCCESS IN SECURITY DEVELOPMENTS.

[4](#). (SBU) MORE DETAILED INFORMATION ON WHAT ITALY PLANS TO BRING TO THE TABLE IN BERLIN ON MARCH 31 IS CONTAINED IN REFS B AND C. FOREIGN MINISTER FRATTINI NOW PLANS TO LEAD THE ITALIAN DELEGATION, GIVEN SECRETARY POWELL'S PRESENCE. BONIVER AND DE MAIO WILL ALSO PARTICIPATE. ADDITIONAL DELEGATION MEMBERS HAVE NOT YET BEEN FINALIZED.

[5](#). (U) KABUL MINIMIZE CONSIDERED.
SEMBLER

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